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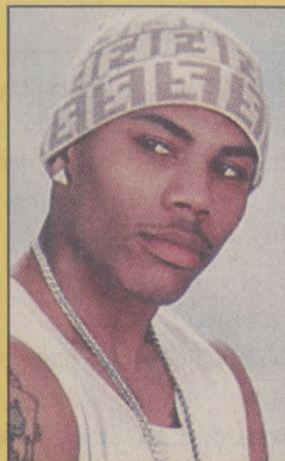
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25¢



**Rapper
turned
franchise
business-
man?**
see page 16

Get-Out-The-Vote Campaigns Target 'Hip- Hop Generation'



The Urban League's Morial said an "obsession with 'swing voters'" has drawn attention away from potential new voters and their issues.

by Sarah Karush

DETROIT (AP) — Ryan McDowell is no NASCAR dad. But the 22-year-old college student does have a catchy label this campaign season: hip-hop voter.

"Hip-hop summits" and "hip-hop political conventions" have been held throughout the country with the aim of coaxing young people to the polls in November. The efforts, the most prominent of which is led by rap impresario Russell Simmons, are an attempt to improve the poor turnout among younger voters — and to make sure politicians address the issues that are important to them.

Traditional civil rights

groups also have embraced the cause. Last Saturday, the National Urban League is hosting a "hip-hop voter empowerment rally" as part of its annual conference in Detroit. The five-day conference also includes an address by Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on Thursday and one by President Bush on Friday.

"Voting participation levels among young people have not been where they should be," said National Urban League president Marc Morial. "I think they have a sense that they've been ignored."

In the 2000 election,

Hip-Hop
continued on pg. 12

Tampa Teens Receive College Scholarships From Bill Gates



Chantell Newell

by Tracie Reddick

Challenger Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — This fall, Chantell Newell will be able to concentrate on her lessons without worrying about how to pay for her college courses.

The King High School graduate is among 1,000 freshmen from across the country who will have their college tuition paid in full through the Bill and Me-

linda Gates Foundation.

"I'm very excited," said Newell. "School is stressful enough, so it's great knowing that I won't have to worry about how I'm going to pay for my classes."

Dubbed the Gates Millennium Scholarship (GMS), the program not only lifts the financial burden faced by black, Hispanic, Asian and Native



Lauren King

American students but enables them to earn master and doctoral degrees in disciplines with a low minority representation.

Newell and Lauren King were the only students from the Tampa area to receive the scholarships. King could not be reached for comment.

"These young men and women come from extremely modest back-

grounds," said Anne Fajon of the GMS program. "Their stories are incredibly inspirational."

One of seven children born to a single parent, Newell was raised by her grandmother.

"My grandmother has been a very positive influence in my life," said

Scholarship
continued on pg. 4

Every Child Has Talents: It Is Up To The School System To Help Bring It Out

by Linda Young

Challenger Correspondent

Mary Brown ran for the School Board because she wanted to find out why there is an achievement gap between black and white students in Pinellas County schools.

And because "every child needs to know someone is in their corner," Brown said.

Elected in 2002, she became the first African American on the Board. She had worked with children extensively and was an advocate for children with special needs. During 48 years of marriage with husband Norman, she raised five children and a grandchild. The grandchild is in college and her children include a minister, two lawyers (one former judge) and a son with neurological damage who still "has talents," Brown said.

Every child has talents. It is up to the school system to help bring it out. The only reason for the school system being there is to find a way to help students when they arrive at the door so they can succeed. But it is important to "make the kids understand they



Mary Brown

have to succeed so they can help someone else," Brown said.

After only two-years on the Board, she still has not seen data to account for the 30-percent gap in achievement between black and white students. But Brown said that with a school system budget of \$1.8-billion she wonders: "What is wrong? What are we not doing? Are we getting the most for our money?" and what about the "students that need some more help?"

She loves the diversity

she sees in St. Petersburg, but she does not see diversity in housing patterns in Pinellas County or in the schools themselves. The County needs to hire "more minority teachers of all races. I think that would be a help," she said. Approximately 10 percent of teachers are black, and 18.9 percent of students are black. Other minorities include 6 percent Hispanic and lower percentages of Asian and others.

Although with the second year of FCAT results in, Brown said that the

scores for whites were also lower than likes. She said she wonders why all parents aren't upset.

Brown said she wants "concrete data" not "fluff" to make decisions about correcting the achievement gap. But while she seeks hard data, she has formulated some ideas about what is causing the achievement gap.

"Parents play an extremely important role but it's a marriage between the parents and the school system. So I feel the system has a responsibility for seeing that children are encouraged and so on," she said.

Brown said it is important that no child leave a grade without performing at or above grade level or they will just fall farther behind. "What is needed is a community effort to support children" to come together to "mentor and tutor children," Brown said.

She said ministers would help if they spend time on Sunday telling parents how to be "better par-

School
continued on pg. 4



The Weekly Challenger is proud to publish its 14th annual Back-to-School Tabloid. You will find it inserted in this week's edition!

Princess Birthday Party Is A Dream Come True



Center: Collaysha Longstreet

ST. PETERSBURG — Collaysha Longstreet of St. Petersburg had her dream come true when she received a princess birthday party at Great Explorations. Longstreet was diagnosed with Wilms Tumor in August 2003 and is being treated at All Children's Hospital. The Children's Dream Fund arranged this exciting dream for Longstreet.

On Saturday, July 10, Longstreet and a group of 50 family members and friends arrived at Great Explorations to celebrate her fourth birthday. The Children's Dream Fund arranged a time for story telling and a craft time for the girls to make tiaras and the boys to make crowns. Mattel had donated prin-

cess Barbies and trucks for all the children at the party. Cakes by Caroline prepared a special castle cake for Longstreet.

Joanne Lanning, Dream Coordinator, describes the Children's Dream Fund program in this way, "A dream gives the child a much-needed break from the routine of their medical attention and allows them a time to laugh and smile — the best medicine of all."

The Children's Dream Fund is a non-profit organization that has been fulfilling dreams for children with life-threatening illnesses on the West Coast of Florida since 1981. For more information contact Joanne Lanning at (727) 896-6390.

Edwards Tells Black Congregation All Florida Votes Will Count

by Tom Raum

ORLANDO (AP) — Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards pledged from the pulpit of a black church on Sunday that the party will work hard to head off the kind of Florida ballot irregularities that Democrats assert gave the White House to George W. Bush.

"We will get voters registered. We will get voters mobilized. We will get voters to the polls," the North Carolina senator told the congregation of St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church.

A scant 537 votes delivered Florida and the presidency to Bush after a protracted legal battle resolved by the Supreme Court.

The race seems as close this year as then, and both parties have been working hard to prevail and win the state's 27 electoral votes.

"The eyes of the world will be on Florida again this year," said A.M.E. Church Bishop McKinley Young in introducing Edwards.



Vice Presidential candidate John Edwards

Blacks, who as a group voted overwhelmingly for Democrat Al Gore in 2000, say they were disproportionately affected by the 2000 election abuses, including the failure to count thousands of votes, many of them in black neighborhoods.

"We will get voters to the polls. We're going to make sure that all those voters that go to the polls and cast their votes, that their votes are counted this time," Edwards said to applause and shouts of approval from about 700 parishioners.

Edwards later attended fund-raisers in Orlando and Hollywood, Fla.

WEEKLY CHALLENGER NOTICES

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OPINIONS

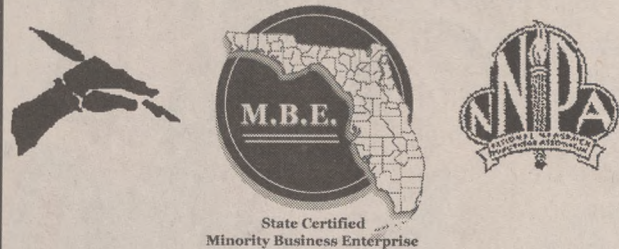
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The Weekly Challenger Newspaper We Value Diversity. We Value Education. We Value History.

A knowledge of his-
tory brings a feeling of
fellowship that runs
through the ages - be it a

territory, a village, a dis-
trict, or a nation. To live
without history is likened
to living without a form

of memory. To be with-
out history is to live
without roots or a past,
with the present having

no real foundation, and
very little meaning for
the future.

The *Weekly Chal-*

lenger is committed to
featuring articles of all
ethnic culture for the
reading enjoyment of

both the young and old
generations.

Naked Partisans

by Rod Paige

I have a message for
the NAACP's Julian Bond
and Kweisi Mfume, who
have accused black conser-
vatives of being the "pup-
pets" of white people, un-
able to think for ourselves:
You do not own, and you
are not the arbiters of,
African-American authen-
ticity.

I am a lifelong member
of the NAACP. I have a
great respect for the orga-
nization. Its historical lead-
ers, all visionary thinkers,
have been responsible for
helping to advance the
struggle of African Ameri-
cans over the past century,
making our nation a more
equitable and race-blind
society. Sadly, the current
NAACP leadership has
managed to take a proud,
effective organization in a
totally new direction:
naked partisan politics,
pure and simple.

In particular, Mr. Bond
and Mr. Mfume have done
a great disservice to our
organization, and to the
founders of the civil-rights
movement, with their hate-
ful and untruthful rhetoric
about Republicans and
President Bush. How ironic
that they would direct this
vitriol at a president who
has appointed more African
Americans to high-profile
posts, has committed more
funds to fight AIDS in
Africa, has championed
minority homeownership,
and has supported more
trade and aid for African
and Caribbean nations than
any other administration.

Another idea that has
been opposed in knee-jerk
fashion is the No Child
Left Behind Act. The law,
passed in 2001 and one of
the president's first priori-
ties upon taking office, is
improving the entire
American school system
and is giving parents whose
children are trapped in
underperforming schools
not only hope, but options,
such as free tutoring or
transfer to a better public
school. The NAACP's opo-
sition to this law has left
me scratching my head,
given the civil-rights roots
of the organization. Educa-
tion is truly the civil-rights
issue of the 21st century. If
a child is denied a quality
education, his or her future
is dimmed by ignorance,
indifference, callousness
and disregard. Millions of

children have been pushed
through the school system
in years past with little
regard as to whether they
have learned.

For minority students
in particular, the denial of a
quality education begins
with what President Bush
has termed the "soft bigotry
of low expectations." Like
Ralph Ellison's "invisible
man," these children have
been overlooked and thrust
into the shadows. They
supposedly cannot learn
because they are too slow,
come from disadvantaged
homes, have the wrong
skin color or are learning
English. Excuses all.

School should be a leg
up on life, which is why No
Child Left Behind is de-
signed to provide a quality
education to all children,
regardless of their race,

spoken accent or street
address. How a civil-rights
organization could charac-
terize NCLB as "dispropor-
tionately hurting" African-
American children is mind-
boggling, since it is specifi-
cally designed to close the
achievement gap between
disadvantaged children and
their peers.

By the time African
American students reach
8th grade, only 12% can
read proficiently and only
7% are proficient in math.
Or, as education resear-
chers have put it, the aver-
age black high-school sen-
ior is leaving 12th grade
with 8th-grade skills. We
know they can learn. Now
we must educate.

Although the NAACP
says it is committed to eras-
ing this pernicious achieve-
ment gap, has it put its
money where its mouth is?
No Child Left Behind is the
most aggressive attempt to
attack this problem to date,
and it is the law. Yet, the
NAACP would prefer to
attack it merely because of
its origins in the Bush
administration. How sad
for black children every-
where.

Has the NAACP for-
gotten the pantheon of
civil-rights leaders who
understood that education
was the key to advance-
ment? Benjamin Elijah
Mays, the mentor of Martin
Luther King, once said that
"black power must mean
hard work, trained minds,
and perfected skills to per-
form in a competitive soci-
ety. The injustices imposed

upon the black man for
centuries make it all the
more obligatory that he
develop himself." Fifty
years ago, the NAACP's
Thurgood Marshall made
the oral argument before
the Supreme Court in the
historic *Brown v. Board of
Education* case that out-
lawed racial segregation in
school. He said that "noth-
ing can repay" wasted
years and a lost education. I
agree.

I also agree with Mr.
Bond that we still have two
school systems in this
country: one that serves
children well and the other
that hasn't. I have been say-
ing the same thing for a
long time.

The answer to this
problem is to ensure that
schools focus on the needs
of the children first, not the
"system." That's what
NCLB is about. The presi-
dent's steadfast support of
the law, along with his cre-
ation of the first federally
funded choice program tar-
geting low-income fami-
lies, demonstrates his belief
that poor and minority par-
ents deserve the same
school choices as better-off
parents who have the
means to vote with their
wallets and feet.

Through his education
policies alone, President
Bush has done more for the
African-American commu-
nity than any previous
president, including the so-
called "first black presi-
dent," Bill Clinton. That's a
secret some black leaders
may not want millions of

African-American voters to
know. But just ask the tens
of thousands of parents
who took advantage of the
free choice and tutoring
provisions under the first
year of NCLB, the majority
of whom were minorities.
Poll after poll has shown
that African-American par-
ents support school choice,
which is directly at odds
with the NAACP's position
on the issue.

The corrosive rhetoric
espoused by the NAACP
may make headlines and
get out the vote in some
quarters, but it is counter-
productive, damaging and a
betrayal of the organiza-
tion's own origins. I would
think our community
would be better off looking
toward the future, helping
our children live up to their
potential. The civil-rights
movement has historically
been multicultural, and
many of its founders,
including those who estab-
lished the NAACP, were in
fact white. I long for the
day when our nation's edu-
cation policy will not be
grist for the partisan mill -
when we can work togeth-
er, black and white, rich
and poor, for the sake of
our children and for their
future.

*This op-ed by U.S.
Secretary of Education Rod
Paige appeared in the July
15 edition of the Wall Street
Journal.*

The "Spoils" of the Civil Rights Victory of 1964

by Kyle Moffett

This isn't a sweeping
indictment of any group of
people. However, we do
have a challenge and the
opportunity for a solution
exists.

Prior to and during
1964, we had African
Americans who were
active in the civil rights
campaign. We had a group
who nonviolently boy-
cotted and marched for
freedom. We also had a
group who fought for our
freedom by any means they
thought necessary. Yet

there were others who sat
on the sidelines, in the safe-
ty of their homes and jobs,
and simply watched.

When the Civil Rights
Act was passed, some of
our misguided activists and
most of those who sat on
the sidelines proceeded to
take the spoils. The
"spoils" being, among
other things, the right to go
into a department store and
"try on" a suit before buy-
ing it. Another spoil would
be the right to walk through
the front door of any estab-
lishment serving the public

and do business. As we
learned when the Israelites
sacked Jericho; not all
spoils should be taken back
to the camp! As a result, a
mass exodus began in the
black business district in
the mid to late sixties.

A couple of things
occurred as a result of this
mass exodus from the
black business community.
The one's who left gave the
impression that the grass
was indeed greener on the
other side. They claimed
the stores were cleaner,
there was more selection,

and prices were better than
in the black businesses. As
the allegations grew, a dis-
like for black business also
grew. Suddenly the black
businesses were viewed as
"trying to do business" and
not really as accomplished
businessmen and women.
Black business folk in
return, developed a hatred
for the black consumer.
The black consumers' treacherous acts were nei-
ther forgiven nor forgotten.
Worst of all, both sides
taught their virulent and
insensitive views to their

children.

Today, we see some of
those children [now empty
nesters] as consumers, still
skeptically thumbing
through the various black
business directories, and as
business owners, refusing
to specifically market to
black consumers. All of
them loving the concept of
community empowerment
through economics, but
never trusting anyone
enough to ever achieve it.
Now that this particular
problem has been stated,
what will YOU do to solve

it? What will YOU teach
your children through your
actions? Will you remove
the "spoils" from the camp
so that the community will
be blessed?

Kyle Moffett is the
President of USEBOBO
.com (Use Black Owned
Black Operated). USE-
BOBO.com is a national
Internet directory of Black
owned businesses, church-
es and social/professional
organizations. For more in-
formation, visit www.use-
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YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.
Please E-mail to: tchallen@tampabay.rr.com**

SARASOTA / MANATEE AREA

Marine Killed in Iraq Remembered as a Hero

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) - Through her tears, the mother of a Marine from Bradenton killed earlier this month in Iraq said that what her son and other soldiers are fighting for far from home will "make a difference."

Friends and family gathered throughout the weekend to honor the life of Lance Cpl. Scott Dougherty, 20, who was killed July 6 when the Humvee he was riding in struck a tank mine in Iraq. He was on his second tour of duty in Iraq; Dougherty first served five months, and was three months into his second tour when he died.

"What these boys and girls are doing over there,



Lance Cpl. Scott Dougherty

it's going to make a real difference someday," said Dougherty's mother, Debra.

Meanwhile, the family of a Palmetto man continued Saturday to mourn his death. Army Staff Sgt. Paul

C. Mardis Jr., 25, died of pneumonia Friday at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, nearly two months after he was injured when an improvised explosive device detonated in Iraq.

"Paul loved his country, and was proud to be a part of the Special Forces," Mardis' wife, Kacey, said in a statement released on behalf of her family Saturday. "He will be missed by each of us in different ways. He is a true American hero."

Dougherty's funeral was Saturday in Sarasota. A memorial service on Friday in Bradenton was replete with full military honors; a flag-draped coffin flanked by Marines in

full dress uniforms, along with red, white and blue ribbons presented to each mourner.

There also were posters covered with photo collages remembering Dougherty's life; one read, "Our Fallen Hero. We'll mourn his death. We'll celebrate his life."

Dougherty was a member of the 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Two other members of his battalion died in the same incident, as did a fourth North Carolina-based Marine.

Mardis, an engineer with the Army's Special Forces, was assigned to

Company B, 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group based at Fort Campbell, Ky. He joined the Army in 1998 as an infantryman, was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell and became a member of the Special Forces in 2001, the Army said.

Mardis received the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. He moved to Palmetto, about 31 miles south of Tampa, when he was 14 to live with his sister, Sherri Lawrence, after their mother died.

Community Study and Stories Project Presentation to Be Held in Venice

A community presentation of SCOPE's recent studies and documentaries on Family Violence and Community Change: Re-development and Infill is scheduled in Venice.

Please join them lunch on July 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Venice Chamber of Commerce. Come see what a wonderful job the community has done on putting a human

face on these issues and coming up with new possibilities for change. RSVP by July 23 by calling SCOPE at (941) 365-8751. Don't forget to invite a friend or neighbor!

Sarasota Hospital Patient Dies After Being Given Wrong Blood

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) - Officials at Sarasota Memorial Hospital acknowledge that a woman was infused with the wrong type of blood, yet are not saying that the mistake led to her death.

The woman, whose identity, age or exact date of death were not released by hospital officials, died late last month. Dr. Duncan Finlay, the hospital's chief executive, said Friday the woman died about a day after receiving the erroneous transfusion, which happened because a blood sample was mislabeled.

"It was a medical error, but we don't know if it was the cause of death," Finlay said.

More information about the incident should be available in the coming days, said Lyn Cassan, the hospital's marketing director. State health officials said Saturday the incident

would likely be investigated by Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration.

Hospital staffers realized something was wrong when the woman began reacting adversely to the transfusion, Finlay said. Such a mistake isn't automatically fatal; the director of Suncoast Communities Blood Bank, Mark Magenheimer, said about 60 percent of people who receive the wrong blood type wouldn't exhibit any problematic symptoms.

Rarer still is actually getting the wrong type of blood. The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses said that such mistakes account for about a dozen deaths each year.

Hospital spokesman Mike Vizvary said administrators have not taken action against anyone involved in the mistake. An internal investigation into

the incident is continuing, Vizvary said.

In March, the hospital mistakenly performed a heart catheterization on another patient, an incident that Finlay insisted did that patient no harm. The mistake was made because no one compared the patient's wrist identification bracelet to the patient's chart.

Heart catheterization is a generally routine procedure that involves using a catheter to insert dye into arteries to detect blockages.

"The fact that these two things happened are very unfortunate," Vizvary said.

Cassan said having two high-profile mistakes occur within a relatively short time span doesn't look good.

"Everyone's concerned about the timing," Cassan said.

North Port, Jacaranda Library Renovations on Road to Completion

After a two-week renovation closure, the North Port Library re-opened on a limited schedule last week, while the staff at the Jacaranda Library is coping with their own closure by delivering books using a golf cart.

Both the North Port and Jacaranda libraries were shut down to allow for significant improvements and expansions. Work is progressing well on each but schedules remain abnormal until the work is done.

Frances T. Bourne Jacaranda Library is closed until Aug. 2 while workers double the size of the facility to bring it to the county-wide library standard of 25,000 square feet. During the closure, a new computer lab will be set up with computers, and an audiovisual system will be installed in the large meeting room. Workers will also expand the Youth Area and a room for those with low vision/hearing. The library will also get new carpet and paint throughout. The

project will be complete when the library reopens in August.

In the meantime, Jacaranda Library staff are using a golf cart to transport materials to the Home Depot one block west of the library on Jacaranda Boulevard. By appointment, library patrons can pick up books and other reserved items at the store. About 20 patrons a day use this remote service and have been thanking staff for making it available.

North Port Library's

renovation progress includes a new machine, called a VTLS, that patrons can use to check out books themselves, without needing staff. Work has also included the expansion of the employee lounge and the new "Friends of the Library" bookstore. Workers also installed a new fire sprinkler system, did some demolition of walls for a new book return, and refurbished air-conditioning and electrical systems.

North Port's library will operate on a split schedule while more work is completed. According to that schedule, the library will be open to the public only from 3-8 p.m. so that workers can operate more freely during the morning hours. Children's library programs continue to operate from the Al Goll Center at 5930 Sam Shapos Way in North Port. Another full closure is possible later this year but all work should be completed by the end of 2004. For more information, please call (941) 861-9844.

News Deadline Is 4 P.M. Monday

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Habitat For Humanity Builds Another Home

ST. PETERSBURG - Habitat has done it again! Last month, Habitat for Humanity dedicated another home at 1700 20th St. S.

The lucky recipients were Rebecca Cabarris and her children Rashad, 14; Marquese, 12; and Desmond, 7. This is a three bedroom home and the 114th home that Habitat for Humanity has built in Pinellas County. The Rev. Jerome Broom, minister of Mt. Zion Progressive Baptist Church, gave the blessing.

Donors to this project included City of St. Petersburg (land); Whirl-Pool Corp. (appliances); Hunter Douglas (blinds);



Rebecca Cabarris is all smiles as she poses in front of her new home.

Alex Bros. Sawmill (landscaping materials); Valpak Corp. (gift certificate) and



Rebecca and her children, Rashad, Desmond and Marquese.

Badcock Furniture (gift certificate).

Volunteers are needed for building as well as cler-

ical duties. If you are interested in volunteering, please call (727) 536-4755.

Choose to Lose - One STEP at a Time

The majority of Pinellas County residents are overweight or obese and most have tried one diet plan after another without much success. Fad diets seldom yield long-term results. Real success depends on making lifestyle changes - including decreasing our calorie intake and increasing our level of physical activity.

In partnership with STEPS for a Healthier-Pinellas, Bayfront Medical Center's Community Resource Center is presenting Choose To Lose®, a healthy eating, weight management program. A registered dietitian teaches this FREE seven-week weight management program that focuses on reducing fat intake while increasing the intake of nutritious foods. The result promotes weight loss, lowered cholesterol levels and reduced risk of heart attack, some forms of cancer and type two dia-

betes.

- Which foods are making you overweight
- How to eat a balanced diet
- How to read food labels
- How to order low-fat foods at restaurants
- Why daily aerobic exercise is essential for weight loss
- How to modify recipes to make them lower in fat
- Low-fat foods can taste delicious

In addition, the dietitian is available outside of class to help you achieve and maintain a healthy, comfortable weight.

Classes are held at Johnnie Ruth Clarke Health Center at the Historic Mercy Hospital Campus, 1344 22nd St. S., and the Pinellas Park Senior Citizen Center Annex, 7625 59th St. N.

These free classes are

offered to the public and are funded by STEPS to a HealthierPinellas, a federally funded grant under President Bush's Healthier U.S. campaign. This five-year grant focuses on delivering important health messages regarding obesity, diabetes and asthma and related behavior including nutrition, physical activity and tobacco usage. Its goal is to reduce the occurrence of these behavioral diseases which lead to heart

disease, certain forms of cancer, high blood pressure and other life-threatening health conditions.

Take your first STEP toward a healthier lifestyle! For additional information, class dates, or to schedule your Choose To Lose® orientation, call (727) 893-6895. For more information on STEPS to a HealthierPinellas, call (727) 820-4113 or visit www.PinellasWellness.com.



New Class

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Aug. 17 - Dec. 14, 2004

Tues. & Thurs. 6-9 PM

\$325 tuition

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Are You Raising Your Grandchildren?

Support groups make a big difference for some caregivers. Family Resources, Inc. offers its Kinship Care Support Groups on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The meetings are held at Family Resources, 3821 Fifth Ave. N. in St. Petersburg. Child care is avail-

able with advanced notice. For more information contact Laura Hagerman at (727) 550-4250.

Family Resources, Inc., which operates the

Kinship Care support groups, is a private, non-profit organization serving children and families since 1970. Some of its programs include Runaway

and Youth Crisis Shelters, Family Counseling, Safe Place and the On-Campus Intervention Program (OCIP®).



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TAMPA BAY AREA

Department of Justice Approves Childs Park for Special Initiative

PINELLAS COUNTY — The Community Capacity Development Office/Office for Weed and Seed, a bureau of the Department of Justice, has approved the Childs Park neighborhood application for Official Recognition under the national Weed and Seed Program. On Friday, July 23, an Award's Presentation will be held at the Childs Park recreation center (4301 13th Avenue S.) to present city officials/neighborhood with

the national certification. The ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. Residents, members of the Weed and Seed Steering Committee and pertinent collaborative partners will be in attendance. The public is welcome to attend.

Weed and Seed is a national Justice Department strategy designed to combat crime through the coordinated efforts of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, while acting in collaboration

with specific prevention, intervention and treatment agencies, to provide restoration to devastated neighborhoods. Some of the partnerships used to develop and sustain the strategy have and will include The United States Attorney's Office (Middle District of Florida), the Drug Enforcement Administration, St. Petersburg Police Department, local government, residents and others.

The five-year strategy

will address such issues as violent crimes, youth, economic development and other needs that were captured during the assessment process. Pursuant to the acceptance of the application, the City of St. Petersburg, Childs Park neighborhood has been invited to apply for federal funding in September 2004 that will assist in the implementation of this strategy.

USF Student Receives "Excellence In Service" Award

TAMPA — University of South Florida student Felicea Robinson is one of three students in the state to receive the "Excellence in Service" award from Florida Campus Compact.

Robinson was chosen for her involvement in her school and community. She serves on the Volunteer USF Leadership Board as the Coordinator of Seniors and Disabilities, and volunteers weekly as a mentor to fourth grade students at a local Boys and Girls Club. Robinson also



Felicea Robinson

works with Habitat for Humanity and the American Red Cross, and enjoys uplifting the spirits of sick individuals by visiting hos-

pitals and nursing homes with her church.

"Service has impacted me because of the huge impact that it has left on others. I am truly a better person because of my involvement in community service; it teaches me to be thankful and very grateful for the things that I do have, for those who love me, and to understand the necessity in making a difference," said Robinson.

Florida Campus Compact is a coalition of College and University Presi-

dents committed to helping students develop the values of citizenship through participation in public and community service. Each year Florida Campus Compact offers the "Excellence in Service" award statewide to college students exhibiting outstanding achievements in community service that address today's social issues.

Robinson will be awarded \$1,000.

Scholarship from front page

Newall, who grew up in Temple Terrace. "She's always encouraged me to do well in school."

Good grades are not always a guarantee for college enrollment. Without the Microsoft mogul picking up the tuition tab, many of the GMS recipients would most likely become just another sad statistic. Consider this:

- More than 2 million freshmen will begin college in the fall, but only half of them will receive enough financial aid to cover their tuition and other living expenses.

- Hundreds of thousands of students will drop out of college or delay their education by the end of the year because they won't have enough money to further their education.

- Only half of all African American and Hispanic students who enter college actually earn their college degree.

Those numbers are

changing thanks to GMS.

Thanks to the program, minority students who possess leadership abilities, as well as a cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale, have received the money they needed to pay for college at an accredited institution.

Since its inception in 1999, more than 7,000 students have been awarded GMS scholarships.

"All of the students are committed to giving back just a little of the mentoring and support they received," Fajon said.

Newall said she plans to volunteer at elementary schools while pursuing her degree. "I've always enjoyed working with children."

In the meantime, Newell will join the 5,200 scholars currently matriculating at 932 colleges and universities in 50 states.

"I'm going to major in education at Bethune-Cookman College," Newall concluded.

Resource Center for Women Announces Life Skills Training Programs for August

PINELLAS COUNTY

— The Resource Center for Women (RCW) offers free services to women in our community. They include personal growth, career development and parenting. In addition, RCW offers a monthly computer orientation class and a free computer lab. Classes are held in Largo at 1301 Seminole Blvd., Suite 150 and in St. Petersburg at the Enoch Davis Center, 111 18th Ave. S.

In Personal Growth, the focus is on self-awareness, and communication skills. Classes will be held

Thursdays, beginning August 5, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Largo Center and Tuesdays, beginning August 3, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Enoch Davis Center.

In Career Development, the groups work on resume preparation, job search strategies and interview techniques. Classes at the Largo Center begin August 5 and will be held Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes at the Enoch Davis Center begin August 3rd and will be held on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Parenting Education will help you build your child's self-esteem, communicate with your child and enjoy a quality relationship with your child. Classes at the Largo Center begin August 4th and will be held on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Daytime classes at the Enoch Davis Center begin August 5 and will be held Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Evening classes begin August 4 and will be held on Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Computer Orientation

class and self-directed learning lab offer basic computer instruction in a small, comfortable environment. The August orientation class is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17th from 12:30-2 p.m. at the Largo Center. The lab is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Individual training is available, by appointment, for Computer Orientation participants.

Call RCW at (727) 586-1110 to register for one of these free classes today!

Local Politician Receives Distinguished Achievement Award

TAMPA — The Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers (HAWL) recently named Rep.

Arthenia L. Joyner (D-Tampa) as the recipient of their 2004 Annual Achievement Award. HAWL

specifically recognized Rep. Joyner's years of achievement as an attorney and for her commitment to promoting gender equality in the legal profession.

"I am humbled to be recognized by HAWL for my dedication to the profession of law," stated Rep. Joyner. "As a youngster, I wanted to be like the late Thurgood Marshall to be in a professional occupation that provided a service to the people." "I am proud to have served the Hillsborough community for the last thirty-five years with integrity, dignity and fair-



Rep. Arthenia Joyner

ness and I pledge to continue to serve with that same vigor and compassion," commented Rep. Joyner.

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trained to deal with such kids. "Social problems need community resources," Brown stated.

Brown said she "will not give up on children," even if she might "rub some people the wrong way." She said she has to do things her way and see results. "I am result oriented. Whatever I have to do. I may be more quiet than some people would like to see me but I'm getting things done in the background."

Brown's granddaughter was one of only three black children in the magnet International Baccalaureate program at Palm Harbor in the class of 2000. So, Brown said that minorities are not being put into the requisite courses for magnet schools. To correct that, she said she wants to see better guidance and advisement at the fifth-grade level to place black and other minority students into the courses they need.

Brown was born in Tennessee and graduated from John Hay High School in Cleveland, Ohio in 1954. She attended King College and Western Reserve and after moving here in 1985, completed her bachelor's degree at Eckerd College in 1989.

"My husband teased me and said I'm single-minded," Brown said. She wants to make this school system "one of the best in the country."

She added, "We have to get the most. Every child deserves a quality education that will get the most out of them."

Brown enjoys working with the other board members and feels they made a good choice in the new school superintendent who she said is committed to closing the achievement gap.

"I'm blessed to have had this opportunity to make a difference because all you can do is try," she said.

John Kerry

PRESIDENT

What he's going to do about...

My Job.

There are three hundred sixteen thousand more unemployed African Americans today than at the start of the Bush Administration. And the unemployment rate among African Americans has climbed back into double digits. John Kerry will fight to bring back the 1.8 million jobs that have been lost altogether under George W. Bush. He will also work to create millions of new, good-paying jobs in his first term as President and close tax loopholes that actually reward companies to export our jobs overseas.

My Health Care.

One in five African Americans is uninsured and soaring insurance costs threaten to drive the number even higher. More than 1.5 million African American children have no health insurance coverage whatsoever. African Americans are more likely to die

from breast cancer and prostate cancer.

John Kerry's health care will allow Americans to buy into the same health care plan that the President and members of Congress have, while providing help for those who cannot afford insurance. His plan will also make sure that nearly all children are enrolled in health insurance. And John Kerry will work to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities through additional research and outreach to increase screening.

My Kids.

Too many schools in African American communities are underfunded and in poor condition. John Kerry will create a new "Education Trust Fund" that will give public schools the resources they need to excel. He will also work to make college affordable again by offering a new College Opportunity Tax Credit.

Get to know



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RELIGIOUS NEWS

Meadowlark Will Be Coming to Gateway Christian Center!



Meadowlark Lemon

World famous Harlem Globetrotter Meadowlark Lemon, "Clown Prince" of the Harlem Globetrotters for 24 seasons, played in more than 7,500 consecutive games for the red, white and blue. He played before popes, kings, queens and presidents in more than 94 countries around the world and in more than 1,500 cities in the United States with the

Meadowlark will be coming to Gateway Christian Center on Sunday, July 25 at 10 a.m. Visit us at our new location - the big yellow church at 4300 Central Ave. (only nine blocks from Childs Park).

This will be for one service only, so don't miss it!

For more information, call (727) 327-0771.

Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

The Mt. Zion Youth Ministry presents "Back to School Jam 2004" on Saturday, August 14 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Entertainment will include mime performances, a live DJ, health fair, sports and games, back to school supplies, food and lots of fun. All activities will be held at the church.

Crown Financial Ministry: Teaching God's people His financial principles. For more information and to enroll for the next class, contact the church office at (727) 894-4311.

Do you or someone you know have a drug or alcohol problem? It's time to make a change, and we can help. Call today to begin your FREE "Confidential Recovery" on Fridays at 7 p.m. at the Kings Kid's Academy Building, 950 - 20th St. S. If you, a family member or someone you know is interested in learn-

ing about or coping with substance abuse, please contact A.J. Murphy at (727) 481-2609.

Mt. Zion Human Services, Inc. provides after school training and tutoring services for youth ages 14-18 through the Youth Opportunity Center. The program offers an opportunity to improve your grades, on-line practice for the FCAT, ACT/SAT prep, earn your high school diploma, earn your GED and earn an opportunity to be selected to win a free computer. For further information, please contact George B. Smith at (727) 894-4311 ext. 302.

The Children and Youth Ministries need your donations of school supplies. Please contact the church office or place any donations in the boxes located in the church lobby.

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church's 2004 Dual Day Committee cordially invites the public to attend their "Calendar Tea" on Sunday, July 25. The tea will be held at the church's Frank Cubby Fellowship Center from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Auxiliaries will decorate each of the 12 tables that depict their assigned month and will be judged "best table" accordingly. You are invited to register

with your favorite month. The Women's Dual Day Mass Choir will have rehearsals on August 3 and August 10 at 7:30 p.m. All ladies of the church as well as ladies from other churches interested in singing with the choir are invited to come out for these rehearsals. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Clara Woodard at (727) 822-0992.

Pentecostal Temple C.O.G.I.C.

Pentecostal Temple C.O.G.I.C. completed their annual Vacation Bible School on Friday night, July 16. It was a wonderful week of learning, singing and fun activities and crafts focusing on the theme: "Jesus Empowers Us for Godly Living."

Our Sunday morning worship service began with the remembrance of our former pastor, Elder Joseph Anderson, Jr. It was on the third Sunday in July of 1987 that he delivered his final message entitled "Programmed to Live Holy." Following that message, he retired to his office, breathed his last breath and went home to be with the Lord.

Pastor William Anderson preached to us from Leviticus 11:44 and 45 on "Holiness: God's First and Final Choice." He told us

that God requires us to live holy in an unholy society. He told us that even though we face temptations every day, we could still live holy because God has given us help through His son, Jesus Christ. He encouraged us from Isaiah chapter 6 to confess our sins before God and receive His cleansing. "The light in us should point others to Jesus" was a reminder that others are looking on our lives and can be drawn to Christ through our holy lifestyles.

Upcoming events include a super sidewalk sale this Saturday (if weather permits) on the Pentecostal Temple Courtyard from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Clothing for the entire family, hats, shoes, household items and furniture are some of the quality items that will be available.

Concord Missionary Baptist Church

The pastor and disciples of Concord Missionary Baptist Church invite all to share with them during our first church and pastor's anniversary.

All ministry meetings are cancelled due to the church and pastor's anniversary.

Weekly worship celebration: All evening services are at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 22 St. Mark and the Rev. Brian Brown; Friday, July 23 New Hope and the Rev. Carlos Senior; Sunday,

July 25 at 3:30 p.m. Macedonia and the Rev. Danny Thomas of Rubonia.

We solicit your prayers and support as we thank God for this past year and his bountiful blessings. Our weekly worship services are on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.; Church School at 10:50 a.m.; worship experience, the Lord's Supper is the first Sunday during the 10:50 a.m. service; Wednesdays at 7 p.m. is prayer meeting and Bible Study.

Every Word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. - Proverbs 30:5



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Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church

"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Pastor Clarence A. Williams and the Mt. Zion Church family cordially invite you to attend worship services with us at 919 - 20th St. S. this fourth Sunday in July. We also invite you to all our services in the upcoming week.

Our early morning service begins at 7:30 a.m. with praise and thanksgiving filling the sanctuary as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Our Church School commences at 9:30 a.m. We encourage you to join us as we collectively learn more of the Word of God. Contemporary worship service is at 11 a.m. Come and partake in the service as we lift high the name of Jesus.

The Youth Choir will provide ministry in song throughout the day. Come and be blessed as we feast on the Word of God!

Other ministries include:

- Monday - Bible Study, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday - Early morning prayer 6:30 a.m.; Vintage Bible Study, 11 a.m.; Men's Bible Study, 6 p.m.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

"Christians becoming better, not bitter."

The New Hope Missionary Baptist Church family invites everyone to come and worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. Parents - please bring your children, and there are also classes for you, so that the entire family can learn more about the Word of God.

Morning Worship begins with a spirit-filled devotion with the Deacons in charge at 10:15 a.m. Song and Praise Service will be rendered by the Youth Choir, accompanied by Minister of Music Tony Young and Vernard McKenny. The Choir is directed by Bobbie Tampa. The

Upcoming events:

• August 8 - on the road again, fellowship with St. James A.M.E. Church, Palmetto.

• August 13 - Back to school night sponsored by the Board of Christian Education at 6:30 p.m. We need your help! Requesting everyone get on board by providing school supplies to bless each of our children. See Donna Butler for details.

• We encourage one and all to start making preparations for our "Harvest Day 2004." Several events have been planned for the upcoming months. Our prayer is that we make this celebration a success!

Stay tuned for: First Cook-Off between the men and women, August 22; Harvest Banquet at the Renaissance Vinoy, September 10; Worship Experience, September 19 at 7:30 and 11 a.m.

Looking for a church home? We extend an invitation to you to join us. We as a church share the love of God, and the Holy Spirit reigns. We'd love to have you!

Thought for the week: "Remember, When Praises go up, blessings come down"

Be blessed, and have a Jesus-filled week!

preached Word will be given to us by our dynamic and most capable pastor, the Rev. Carlos L. Senior.

Weekly events include: Tuesdays - Prayer meeting/Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays - Prayer band at 11 a.m.

The annual family church picnic will be held on Saturday, July 24 at the War Veteran's Memorial Park - Bay Pines. This event is sponsored by the Men's Ministry.

"Intro to College (Pillow-Talk)" will be held on Thursday, July 29 for all persons attending college for the first time. This will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m.

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church extends an invitation to join us in the celebration, cultivation and communication of His Word. Our doors are open for both 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., and prayer meeting and Bible Study on p.m. and 7 p.m. The Youth Ushers and Male Ministry Choir will serve on Sunday.

The Christian Education Department is vigorously completing plans for their upcoming Women's Seminar on Saturday, August 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Their theme, "Women of Grace at the Well with a Purpose," promises to give this seminar an innovative

and enthusiastic approach to all aspects of womanhood. Presenters for this unique assemblage will include the Rev. Pat Clark of International Church Without Walls in Tampa; Evangelist Ayako Watkins, Victory Christian Center, St. Petersburg; Pastor Brenda Fruster, Without Walls International Church, Tampa; Diane Hughes, Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, St. Petersburg; and the keynote speaker, Dr. Gloria Holmes, Bethel Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Fla. Althea Hudson and her ministry collaborators are expecting over 300 women open to receiving God's purpose in their lives.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor John A. Evans, Sr., first lady and Friendship Missionary cordially invite you to attend worship services with us at 330 - 31st S. this Sunday. We also invite you to all church-related functions in the upcoming week.

The first church service beings at 7:45 a.m. with devotion being led by the Youth Ministry and the Deacon Ministry. The Youth Choir will sing, and the youth will serve as ushers for the day. Pastor Evans will render the message.

Church Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. with the superintendent in charge. A second church service is

held at 10:30 a.m. Vacation Bible School will be held nightly from July 19-22. Contact the church office for more details at (727) 906-8300.

We wish to express sincerest thanks and love for those who traveled with us to New Hope to worship with them on July 18. Again, many thanks.

Please pray for the sick, shut-in and nursing home residents. Other pertinent church news can be found at our website at www.fmbctheship.org or printed in our bulletins on Sundays.

We wish you a Jesus-filled week!!!!

Contest Seeks Christian Poets from St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG - A \$1,000 grand prize is being offered in a special religious poetry contest sponsored by Christian Fine Arts Society, free to everyone. There are 50 prizes in all, including a \$1,000 grand prize, totaling more than \$4,000.

To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 9588 Thombush Lane Fishers, IN 46038. Or enter online at www.freecontest.com. The deadline for entering is July 31.

"We think great religious poems can inspire achievement," says Lavender Aurora, the organization's contest director. Poems may be written on any subject, using any style, as long as there is a spiritual inference. A typical poem might be a love poem, or poem of praise, one that inspires the reader.

Be sure your name and address appears on the page with your poem. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants.

The Community Quartet Union

Thank God for new beginnings. In all things give thanks! We are doing more in 2004, coming together to make a difference in our community.

The monthly program is held 7 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month at St. Jude's Holiness Church, 1012 Auburn St. S., Bishop Nesbitt, pastor.

Quartets, choirs and soloists are welcome to

join the Union. For more information, please call the president of the union, Minister Matty C. Lane, at (727) 327-2542 or (727) 743-7077.

The host group for this month is The Voices of Heaven. Come out and enjoy the Word of God, songs, music and praise. We believe in giving God all the praise and glory.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding.

UMCM Collaborative Venture at Church and Academy

The United Methodist Cooperative Ministries of the United Methodist Churches will partner with New Philadelphia and Bishop Academy in a "clean-up" venture this week. Members of this ministry will "live-in" the church-school complex for three days and two nights as part of a collaborative effort to clean and repair structural areas needing it.

The duration of "work-day" will be 10 a.m.-5 p.m. New Philadelphia will provide snacks, beverages and noon-day meal. Volunteer workers will journey to

Pasadena United Methodist Church for personal hygiene, breakfast and evening meals. The pastor of youth ministries will accompany these volunteers. Dates for this activity are July 22-24.

Youth of New Philadelphia will again preside over a special mid-morning service to be held in their honor. Returning students and college-bound youth will be the focus of this worship experience on Sunday. Members of the church family are urged to make a sacrificial effort to be present and on time.

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SOMEONE**

Former Boston Priest Wants Gays Banned from Priesthood

BOSTON (AP) — A former Boston priest says the church must improve its screening process for accepting seminarians to keep homosexuals from being ordained into the priesthood.

"We must be very careful of who we accept in the seminary and who we ordain as priests," Bishop John M. D'Arcy, now of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese in Indiana, said Sunday. "It's time to ordain men of quality, not to just look for numbers."

D'Arcy, who was in Boston to attend Mass at Our Lady of the Presentation Church, the Brighton neighborhood parish where he grew up, said he hopes the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will discuss screening policies for the seminary when it meets this fall, and will take a firm stance against homosexual men serving as priests.

The Rev. Christopher J. Coyne, spokesman for the Boston Archdiocese, said that although there has been some discussion

among members of the archdiocese and the Vatican about the possibility of banning homosexuals from the priesthood, no decisions have been made.

"The main issue is celibacy," Coyne said, adding that D'Arcy's concerns about gay priests are not necessarily shared by others.

Coyne said that only 20 percent of the applicants for priesthood in the Archdiocese of Boston are accepted by the church.

"I don't see the need here in Boston," he said of a possible overhaul of the screening process. "I can say the process in Boston is a good one."

In an interview with *The Boston Globe* after the morning Mass, D'Arcy said that while only heterosexual men should be allowed to become priests, they must embrace celibacy.

"We don't put these (heterosexual) men in with attractive women," he said, referring to seminarians. "You're putting him in with men. It's not fair to him, it's not fair to them, it's not fair

to the church."

D'Arcy said priests with the right temperament for the job will attract more good men to work for the church.

"If we ordain men with pathologies and difficulties, they will draw the same kind," he said. "Don't just pray for priests, pray for priests of good quality."

D'Arcy, the former auxiliary bishop of the Boston Archdiocese, has written previously about his concerns about the church's failure to remove abusive priests from the ministry. In one letter, written in 1984, he warned Cardinal Bernard Law about the Rev. John Geoghan's "history of homosexual involvement (with) young boys."

Geoghan was killed in prison, allegedly by a fellow inmate, last year. He was accused of abusing 150 children and was a key figure in the clergy sex abuse scandal that has engulfed the Boston Archdiocese.

CD Review



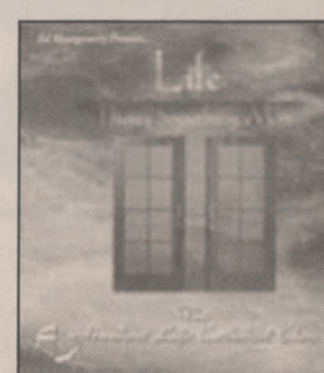
Be prepared to come out of your seat as you listen to "Trust in the Lord [Psalms 37]" featuring Rosalyn Brunswick McDuffie (soloist in popular national play's as "I Need a Man" and "Mama I'm Sorry" with Melba Moore).

Ed Montgomery presents, "Life - There's Something More," a CD explosive enough to propel gospel music into the 21st Century. Its contemporary rhythms are a blend of soul, hip-hop and traditional gospel. Its melodies are fresh, with a state of the art sound. Production is top notch. Play it though once and you're hooked!

Life - There's Something More by the Abundant Life Cathedral Choir of Houston, Texas features Mark Taylor (Musical Di-

rector of Abundant Life Cathedral Church). Mark is certainly no stranger to the gospel scene. He has produced projects for gospel artists Douglas Miller and Vanessa Bell Armstrong. His soothing keyboard style has been used by such gospel giants as Yolanda Adams, Daryl Coley and a host of other's too numerous to name.

This CD features the song writing of Ed Montgomery (Pastor and host of a sizzling show on BET cable television network),



Sandra Montgomery, John McConnell, Mark Taylor, and the national renowned V. Michael McKay.

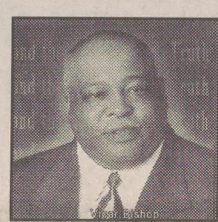
Each soloist is a masterful vocalist in their own right. Specifically listen for such cuts as "All That God Said" and "So Good." Let your spirit soar with the soulful ballad "Never Give Up On You" by John McConnell. Then prepared to come out of your seat as you listen to "Trust in the Lord [Psalms 37]" featuring Rosalyn Brunswick McDuffie (soloist in popular national play's as "I Need a Man" and "Mama I'm Sorry" with Melba Moore).

Taken from gospel singing.com.

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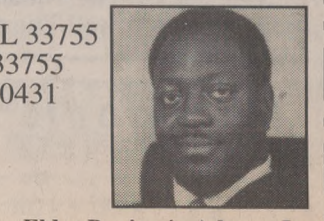
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Home Phone: (727) 866-0643 • email: jpaschal@verizon.net

Saint John Primitive Baptist Church

Elder Benjamin Adams, Jr., Senior Pastor

Church address: 1002 Palmetto Street, Clearwater, FL 33755
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1235, Clearwater, FL 33755
Church Phone: (727) 443-1861 • Fax: (727) 443-0431
Email: sjpbcc@tampabay.rr.com
Radio dial: 1340 AM 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Radio internet: tantalk 1340.com

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Mid-Morning - 11:00 am
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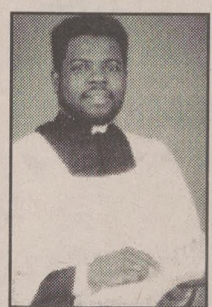
Church School 9:00 A.M.
New Member Class 9:00 A.M.
Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Prayer / Bible Study . Tuesday 7:00 PM.
Youth Bible Study .. Thursday 6:00 PM.

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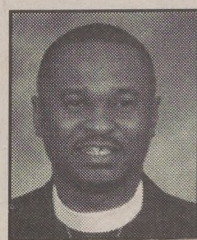
Elder William E. Anderson, Pastor

Morning Glory Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Community Bible Study Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Prayer & Bible Study Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
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www.mzprogressive.org

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Worship Service: 8:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Prayer Meeting: 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Bible Study: 8:00-9:00 p.m.
(Adult and Youth)



Pastor Louis M.
Murphy, Sr.

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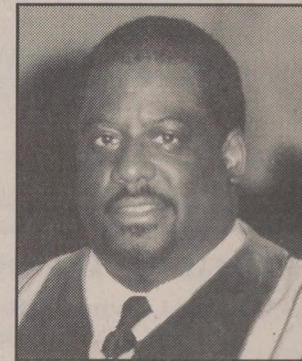
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ST. PETERSBURG, FL
PHONE: 323-7518

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Clearwater, Florida 33516
Church Phone: 443-1945
Parsonage: 446-6056
Rev. Fleming Tarver, Pastor
Sunday Services

Sunday Service..... 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 11:00 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5:00 p.m.
Weekly Services
Bible Class Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study,
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

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Bible Study Fellowship 6:30 PM (Wed.)

The Reverend Aaron V. Gaskin Associate Pastor
Finance Ministry James Robinson
Children & Youth Ministry Joyce Robinson
Clerk Ministry Wyvonna McGee

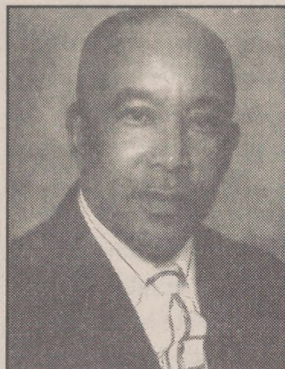
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Phone: (727) 244-0831
or 244-0832

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Experience 10:50 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

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shall direct thy path. (Proverbs 3:6)



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Pastor

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Toll Free: (866) 890-1400

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Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Night Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday Night Prayer 7:30 p.m.
Friday Night Praise Service 7:30 p.m.

Pastors
Elder Leon Lavelle Thomas
Pastor Vivian Powell Thomas

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Elder: Tony Smith

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Pastor (727) 89-2119

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Elder A.P. Conage, Pastor

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9:30 A.M. - Sunday School
11:00 A.M. - Morning Service

9:00 A.M. - Tuesday Prayer

7:00 P.M. - Wednesday Bible Study

YPWW First and Third Sunday of
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Sunday School - 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday: Prayer
Meeting/Bible Study
7:00 P.M.



Rev. Rickey L. Houston

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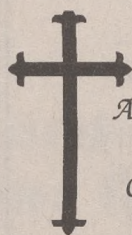
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Home: 896-8006



Bro. Robert Smith

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Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

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Triumphant Thursday Bible Study: 7:15pm
Sunday School: 9:00am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00am

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(Revelation 22:17)

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Rev. Carlos Senior
Pastor

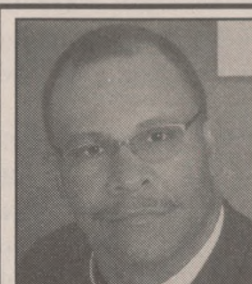
Sunday Services:

Church School 9am
Praise & Worship Service 10:30am

Tuesday Services:

Prayer Service 6:30pm
Bible Study 7pm

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Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:15 p.m.

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Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Thursday 9:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.

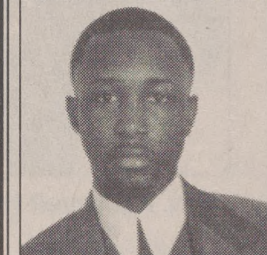


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Rev. G. M. Curry

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Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 4:30 p.m.
Communion 7:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

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Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Mid-Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.
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Bible Study/Prayer Service Thursday 7:30 p.m.

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7:30-8:45pm Bible Study

Thursday

Worship & Performing Arts Ministry

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
6am Prayer



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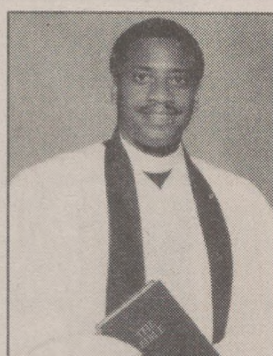
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Scheduled Services - Sunday
Church Education Assembly (Church School) - 8:45 a.m.
Prayer Time - 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.
Communion - Every First Sunday Bible Study - Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor
Rev. Peggy M. Peterman
Assistant Pastor

On Christ the solid Rock, I stand - all other ground is sinking sand....

STATE NEWS

Jones Reunited With His Biggest Critic - Shaq

by Steven Wine
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — Few NBA players who lead their team in scoring four years in a row have endured more criticism than Miami Heat guard Eddie Jones.

He's timid. He's selfish. He chokes in the clutch. And that's just according to Shaquille O'Neal.

Trashed in O'Neal's autobiography three years ago, Jones now finds himself reunited with his biggest critic.

"I'm sure Shaq has grown up so much that he's not going to take shots at his teammates," Jones said. Despite their rocky relationship, Jones professes delight about the addition of O'Neal, acquired in a blockbuster trade last Wednesday. They played together for the Los Angeles Lakers from 1996 to 1999, and with opponents preoccupied trying to contain O'Neal, Jones thrived and twice made the NBA All-Star team.

But after the Lakers traded Jones to Charlotte, O'Neal had harsh words in his book about his ex-teammate. According to O'Neal, Jones didn't want the ball in important situations and was unhappy when Kobe



Heat guard Eddie Jones

Bryant became the Lakers' primary perimeter option.

A bum rap from the world's tallest rapper? Jones said he asked the Lakers to trade him during the 1998-99 season, which may have contributed to O'Neal's ire.

"Sometimes when you're young, you make rash statements," Jones said. "I think he made a lot of statements that he really didn't believe. He came to me afterwards. To me it's quashed. I don't think much else about it."

Jones was 25 and O'Neal 24 when they first played together in Los Angeles. Now that they're 33 and 32, Jones believes the relationship will be better. And he's counting on O'Neal to be different after

spending five seasons with coach Phil Jackson.

"When I was there, he was a lot younger and always very immature," Jones said. "Over the years, having a coach like Phil around made him grow up, and he became dominating."

After Jones left Los Angeles, O'Neal and the Lakers won three NBA titles. Jones has played 10 seasons without reaching the finals.

When asked about their relationship, O'Neal didn't renew his criticisms of Jones but didn't recant them, either.

"He said some things, I said some," O'Neal said from Orlando in a telephone interview. "This right here is a whole new era. Eddie knows when I come down there, I'm coming down there for strictly business."

The Heat failed to win a playoff game in Jones' first three years with the team, and he was considered part of the problem — an overpaid underachiever who shrank in the spotlight. Then last season the Heat survived an 0-7 start under new head coach Stan Van Gundy to make the playoffs for the first time

since 2001.

The players traded to the Lakers — Lamar Odom, Caron Butler and Brian Grant — helped foster a positive mood in Miami's locker room. Jones said he doesn't see that changing with their departure.

"I don't think chemistry is going to be bad," Jones said. He added with a laugh, "Everybody knows Shaq is going to get the majority of the touches."

With the Heat trading three starters to acquire O'Neal, it's imperative for the team that he and Jones get along. A repeat of the sort of feuding that prompted O'Neal and Bryant to part company is unlikely, because Jones seems to fare best in a complementary role.

He expects O'Neal to make him and the Heat better.

"I'm excited about having a guy so dominant that can create so many opportunities for you and your teammates," Jones said. "The game becomes really simple. You pound it inside to him, and he'll create for everybody."

"It's going to be a fun, fun, fun time."

Youth Rights and Employee Accountability

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.

Gov. Jeb Bush recently joined Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Anthony J. Schembri in announcing two major new initiatives that will place an enhanced focus on valuing humane and appropriate care for all youths in Department custody, and strengthening accountability at the Department.

"I'm pleased with Secretary Schembri's focus on employee accountability and values at the Department of Juvenile Justice," Bush said. "I am proud of the Department and its employees. They have succeeded in helping reduce juvenile crime; demonstrated by the significant reduction in juveniles tried as adults—a number that has decreased by approximately 40 percent since 1998. Prosecutors are now willing to rely on the Department to discipline and rehabilitate juvenile offenders, rather than rely on adult sentencing laws. In addition, referrals for juvenile felonies have declined 16 percent over the last five years. Our tough love approach of punishment and increased treatment has worked, and I expect that trend to continue under the

secretary's leadership."

Schembri emphasized the need to treat the youth under the Department's care, humanely and respectfully. He also noted that these initiatives were unlikely to succeed unless the Department holds itself more accountable.

"We're improving the way we do business by creating a new mindset and building on what works," Secretary Schembri said. "The Governor and I have discussed these changes at length and I appreciate his strong support."

The two areas to be addressed immediately — Valuing Youths' Rights and Strengthening Employee Accountability — include the following steps:

Valuing Youth Rights

• Youth Rights Policy — DJJ will immediately institute a Youth Rights Policy that will ensure every child in the Department's care will be accorded certain rights. For a copy of this policy visit the News & Events tab at www.djj.state.fl.us.

• Revisions to Protective Action Response (PAR) — In addition to the hammerlock technique, which Interim Secretary C. George Denman banned, a

ban has also been placed on the use of the shoulder lock, wristlock and pressure points as restraint techniques. The use of restraint chairs has also been discontinued.

• Exit Interview — DJJ will develop and implement an exit interview process of youth leaving the Department's programs or care. Learning how each youth views these programs will provide valuable information to the Department.

Strengthening Accountability

• Accountability Supervisor — Each direct-care supervisor will be designated an "accountability supervisor." This change in working title — and mindset — will ensure each designee has the authority and responsibility to hold those under their direction accountable for their actions.

• Personal Accountability Training — An 8-hour training practicum designed to show supervisors that personal accountability is at the center of quality, high productivity, and customer satisfaction. This training will demonstrate how personal accountability plays a major role in organizational creativity, morale, and individual job satisfaction.

• Central Communications Center (CCC) — On July 6, the Department opened a 24/7 Central Communications Center. All programs are required to report any incident through the CCC within 2-hours of occurrence. This will ensure facts are reported in a timely manner, enabling management to take swift action, as needed. For a copy of this policy, visit the News & Events tab at www.djj.state.fl.us.



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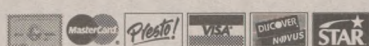
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NATIONAL NEWS

Former Energy Secretary O'Leary Named to Lead Fisk University

by Lucas L. Johnson II
Associated Press Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Former U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary was named president of Fisk University last week, the fifth person to head the financially struggling black institution in almost a decade.

"I'm excited to be back," O'Leary, a 1959 Fisk graduate, told The Associated Press. "I'm looking forward to meeting these wonderful students and working with an exemplary faculty that has hung on for so long."

Many are hoping O'Leary, 67, will be able to stabilize Fisk, which has dealt with money problems since its founding in 1866.

"Among the many outstanding candidates, we selected President O'Leary because she has the energy, leadership, wisdom and courage to guide Fisk into the future and the track record to deliver results," said Reynaldo P. Glover, chairman of Fisk's Board of Trustees.

"She is a person of passion, of compassion, and she cares about this place." The university, perhaps best-known for the Fisk Jubilee Singers who got their start touring the country to raise money in the college's early years, nearly closed 20 years ago because of lack of funding. Last October, the school's most recent president, Carolynn Reid-Wallace,



Hazel O'Leary

suddenly resigned. Fisk hasn't had long-term stability since Henry Ponder retired in 1996 after 12 years at the helm.

Key issues for a Fisk leader are being aggressive at fund raising and able to emotionally handle a difficult situation. O'Leary says she's up for the challenge.

"What the world wants to see is that Fisk University is also a well run business," O'Leary said. "I know how to do that."

O'Leary comes to Fisk from Blaylock & Partners, an investment banking firm in New York. Before joining the Clinton administration, she worked for utility Northern States Power Co. at her own energy economics and strategic planning consulting company and as a lawyer.

O'Leary, who replaces

Fisk Interim President Dr. Charles R. Fugate, said bringing money to the school will be a top priority and she's already working on ways to do it.

"Fund raising is a real business and requires matching the Fisk mission with program areas that foundations and wealthy donors will want to support," she said.

Another challenge for the university, said O'Leary, is for Fisk "to show why we deserve to exist."

"And I understand why," she said. "We're turning out excellent graduates and the world seems not to know it. The cash-strapped Fisk University isn't the only story here."

Trustees have said they need 1,200 students to provide a budget surplus with their tuition and fees.

Currently, the university has 825 students.

O'Leary said she would like to see people from the community tour the campus so they can see the caliber of students.

"Many of them are legacy students who represent the fourth generation in their family to attend Fisk, others are young adults who may be the first or second in their family to be educated," she said.

"These kids are wise, and they want to be leaders."

Freshman Uwem Unontuen said he's optimistic about the school's future with O'Leary at the helm.

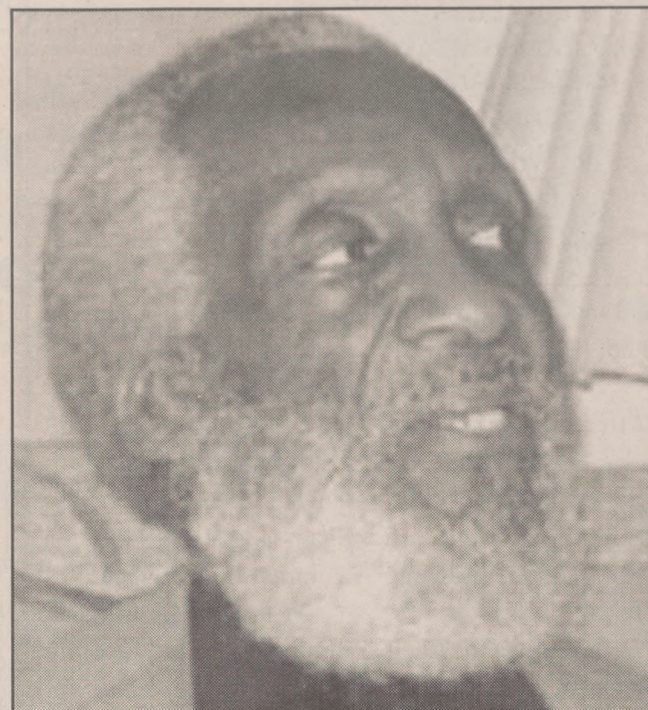
"With the change in presidents we've had over the last few years, what we need now more than anything is consistency and leadership," he said. "I think she will provide that."

Besides her bachelor's degree from Fisk, O'Leary's resume lists a law degree from Rutgers and membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

Fisk was founded as a school for freed slaves and counts among its graduates leaders who have been deeply involved in the Harlem Renaissance and the civil rights movement.

Other graduates include W.E.B. Du Bois, historian John Hope Franklin, poet Nikki Giovanni, and U.S. Reps. John Lewis of Georgia and Alcee Hastings of Florida.

Activist Dick Gregory Arrested at Sudanese Embassy



Dick Gregory joins Congressman Charles Rangel in protest.

NEW YORK — Political comedian and activist Dick Gregory was arrested at the Sudan Embassy at 2210 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. at noon on Tuesday, July 20. Gregory follows Washington, D.C. Pastor Raymond Bell, Congressman Bobby Rush (D-Illinois), former Congressman Bob Edgar, now the President of the National Council of Churches, and New York Congressman Charles B. Rangel who were all arrested by the United States Secret Service last week.

Gregory is a world renowned comedian, civil rights leader and nutritionist. For more than 40 years he has used his talents to point a distinctive finger at human and civil rights

abuses throughout the world.

Gregory is joining the cries of the Congressional Black Caucus and other international protesters in demanding the Sudanese government end its support of the militia who are murdering hundreds of Black Africans everyday. The protesters are demanding that the United Nations and the world call this government supported genocide. The CBC is demanding sanctions against the government of Sudan.

The Sudan Campaign calls on the Security Council of the United Nations to adopt Chapter 7

sanctions on Sudan, to suspend the membership of the government for Sudan on the U. N. Human Rights

Commission, and to enable slave and other victims of the Sudanese government's declared jihad against Black Africans to return to their homes.

In addition to the arrests, radio talk show host and civil rights leader Joe Madison is continuing his hunger strike. Madison demands an immediate end to the Sudanese government's obstruction of humanitarian aid to victims of the Sudanese genocide. The series of arrests at the Sudanese Embassy began on June 29 with former Congressman Walter Fauntroy and talk show host Joe Madison.

The Sudan Campaign is the direct action effort of a coalition of organizations working on behalf black

Africans in Sudan that have suffered violence and slavery at the hands of their government. Partner organizations include The Center for Religious Freedom at Freedom House, the Institute on Religion and Democracy, the American Anti-slavery group, the Wilberforce Project, and others.

Christian Solidarity International (CSI) is a Christian human rights organization for religious liberty helping victims of religious repression, victimized children and victims of disaster. CSI was founded by Rev. Hans Stuckelberger, following silent demonstrations in Switzerland in support of persecuted Christians in 1977.

OBITUARIES

ST. PETERSBURG RITES



COLQUITT, BARBARA WALLER, 72, died July 9, 2004. Survivors include her husband, Zlonzo Colquitt, Jr.; two sons, Alonzo Colquitt III and Charlie W. (Vonda Jackson) Colquitt; two sisters, Charlie Mae Donaldson, Rochester Hills, Mich., and Darlene Harris, St. Petersburg; two nephews, Xenophon (Jeanette) Maxwell, Jr., St. Petersburg, and Jewel Love (Jerry) Donaldson, Flint, Mich.; four nieces, Darla (Johnny) Beach, St. Petersburg, Kim Donaldson, Lisa Donaldson and Carol Donaldson, all of Rochester Hills, Mich.; one aunt, Grace Hayes, St. Petersburg; two grandchildren, Alicia C. Colquitt, Clearwater, and Alonzo P. Colquitt, Tallahassee; and several other relatives and friends. Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.



FOSTER, RAY CHARLES, 49, died July 11, 2004. Survivors include one son, Rashad Foster; his brothers and sisters, Mary Ann (Carl) McGlockton, Jenette (Charles) Simon-Davis, Lynda Austin, Tanya Jefferson, Ulysses Austin, Christopher (Deloris) Austin and Anthony Foster; 27 nieces and nephews; and several other relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

HANDY, SHELTON MAURICE, 38, died July 10, 2004. Survivors include his wife, Brenda Handy; four children, Jerome (Anjuli) Handy, Taylor, Calif., Mychele Handy, Rashard Sloan, Tampa, and Shyria Handy, St. Petersburg; his mother, Rita S. Handy, Manokin, Md.; his grandfather, James Handy, Upper Hills, Md.; his sisters, Sermal (Maurice Cotton) Handy, Muerio, Maurice Cotton, DeAngelo, Dandre Handy,

West Dover, Md., Sharnette (Sean) Handy-Hall, Middleton, Del., Rita Mobley and Shyrain Handy, Shatir Hall, Fla.; four aunts; six uncles; three great aunts; one great niece and nephew; and several cousins and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

HUBBARD, DILLIE, 84, died July 11, 2004. Survivors include two sons, Robert and C.W. Hubbard, both of St. Petersburg; nine daughters, Grace Nell Hathorn, Pressie Mississippi, Lillie, Mollie, Mary, Delores, Diane and Willie Mae Hubbard, Inez Booth and Christine Owens, all of St. Petersburg; two brothers, J.W. (Helen) Cooper, St.



Petersburg, and Horace (Hattie Lee) Cooper, Mt. Olive, Miss.; two sisters, Minnie Chapman, Magee, Miss., and Essie McCollough, Mt. Olive, Miss.; 72 grandchildren; 147 great grandchildren; 38 great great grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

LUMPKIN, AMINE ESSENCE, died July 1, 2004. Survivors include her mother, Latoya Moment; her father, Fred Lumpkin, Jr.; her maternal grandmother, Francie Martin; her maternal grandfather, James Moment; her paternal grandmother, Charlene McDonald; her paternal grandmother, Gracie Shannon; her paternal great grandmother, Hattie Reese; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

WALTON, RONALD EVERETT, JR., 28, died July 3, 2004. Survivors include his mother and father, Ronald Walton, Sr., and Shirley



Gordon Walton; one son,

Rashard E. Walton; one brother, Devin R. Adams; one sister, Michelle M. Walton; his grandmother, Onnie J. Gordon; his great grandmother, Annie W. Jenkins; two great aunts, Turlie Walton, Waynesboro, Ga., and Betty Smith, St. Petersburg; five aunts, Rose White, Barbara Gordon, Pauline Gordon, Earlene Little and Dorothy (Jimmy) Dykes; eight uncles, Calvin (Mya) Gordon,

John (Jewell) Office, Author (Lorene) Office, Willie (Cathy) Jones, Willie L. Walton, Marvin (Beverly) Jenkins, Robert E. (Eula) Walton and Roger E. (Remy) Walton; and several cousins and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.



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wing (HR Dept.), Clwr.
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ARIES (Mar. 21-April 20) You will find good buys and you will
lift your spirits. You need to be careful not to make promises that
you can't fulfill. This will be a great night to invite friend over to
visit. Listen to the advice given by others.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21) Relax and enjoy what you've
accomplished when you're finished. Plan your day carefully.
Focus on forming business partnerships. New emotional connec-
tions can be made through business contacts.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Go with the flow and don't be
concerned about your own job. Outbursts of passion may cause argu-
ments with your mate. Opportunities for new friendships are
apparent. Make arrangements to meet friends at your local dance
club.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Talk to those in a position of power
about your intentions. Think twice before you say something you
might regret later. Don't turn down offers that include sports
activities or children. Take advantage of your attributes and lure
the mate of your choice.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Travel for business will be advantageous.
Real estate investments will payoff. You'll have amazing ideas,
but superiors may try to block your attempts at implementing
them. Try not to allow others to burden you with additional
responsibilities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) You can meet new and exciting
friends who will provide mental stimulation. Compromise if you
wish to have any fun at all. Don't overspend or give too freely to
others. You may be able to get some good advice about your per-
sonal problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) Make arrangements to spend quality
time together. Do what you can to help them but don't neglect
your own family. You need to keep everyone on your domestic
scene too busy to complain. Hidden matters are likely to surface.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Communication will be your
strong point and you should be able to persuade others to see
things your way. Don't go hog wild when it comes to entertain-
ment or you could find yourself short of funds at the end of the
month. Try not to be too lavish with your lover. Be cautious who
you deal with financially.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Don't let your emotions
interfere with your professional integrity. This is a great day for
a trip. Don't be too quick to judge. Take time to do something
nice for yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan. 20) Your mate may want to pick a
fight but if you're persistent with your affections their anger
should dissipate. Focus, and concentrate on yourself and your
future. Lack of cash might be partly to blame for the problems at
home. Use your genuine warmth and compassion to win hearts.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) You will benefit through hidden
assets and property investments. You can't do everything on your
own. Don't expect romantic encounters to be lasting. Your high
energy should be spent pleasing your mate.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Older family members may try to
put unreasonable demands on you. Don't let others saddle you
with guilt that isn't warranted. Find out all the facts before you
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IN THE KNOW

...And Now Some CELEBRITY NEWS

by Candace K. Clarke

Challenger Assistant Editor

Halle Berry's love life is never dull! In the midst of a messy divorce - her ex-husband now denying that he's "a sex addict," but that he's made some mistakes - it seems that she's found a new love in her life! Berry's attention has been turned to **Michael Ealy**, the super fine-looking star known for his role on "Barbershop." He's known as a nice guy, so good luck to her in that one, she could use a break in the love department! By the way, the ex, **Eric Benet**, is set to release a new album this year - which he's dedicating to her!



The new man in Halle's life?



The happy couple - Nicole Lynn and Dule Hill at the Emmy awards

there be more Prince Michaels along the way? As reported in the *National Enquirer* and *Us Weekly*, a Florida woman is set to give birth to more Michael Jackson offspring, despite his current legal battles over molestation charges. The word is that there are quadruplets in the works. Jackson, of course, denies the rumors, but with him, you never know!



The King of Pop's been busy!

Sexiest Vegetarian Alive!



Congratulations to Andre Benjamin, a.k.a. Andre 3000 of the rap group OutKast, voted the World's Sexiest Vegetarian by the animal-lovin' folks at PETA.

Alicia Keys Becomes Regular Travel Columnist for New York Daily News

NEW YORK - "The Diary of Alicia Keys" was just certified triple platinum. She's a Grammy-winning, multi-platinum musical artist, producer and songwriter, and now Alicia Keys can add newspaper reporter to her list of accomplishments.

As of last Sunday, July 18, the *New York Daily News* introduced their newest travel correspondent to their line-up. A New York native, Keys will be writing regular travel columns for the newspaper, detailing experiences from her world tour supporting her latest album, "The Diary of Alicia Keys." In her first column, Keys details her recent trip to the Middle Eastern location, Dubai.

Keys comments, "Writing a travel column is definitely new for me, but I love the challenge. Being on a world tour, I have



Alicia Keys

been blessed to see some amazing places. I love the process of writing, so it's exciting to be able to internalize all I've seen and report back to my hometown New York City."

Keys is no stranger to the world of writing; besides all the songs she's written, Keys has been keeping a journal for most of her life. This fall, Alicia will publish her first book, a poetry book, which will be followed by a "diary-style" book in 2005.

Whoa, Nelly! Rapper Buys into Bobcats



Rapper Nelly

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - Rapper Nelly is a part-owner of the NBA's expansion Charlotte Bobcats. "This is a great opportunity for both the Bobcats and Nelly," Robert L. Johnson, the team's majority owner and the founder of Black Entertainment Television, said Monday in a news release. "Nelly is a great entertainer and a smart businessman and those two traits will serve us well as we prepare to tipoff our inaugural season this fall." Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Nelly, whose real name is Cornell Haynes, Jr., joins an ownership group that includes former NBA player and executive M.L. Carr; Felix Sabates, owner of NASCAR racing teams, and Hugh McColl Jr., former CEO of Bank of America.

"Of the many dreams that I have fulfilled in life, being an NBA owner is certainly one of the biggest achievements," Nelly said in a release issued by the Bobcats. "To be able to make this move with Bob Johnson and to be a part of the first-ever minority owned professional sports franchise in history is a great opportunity."

Nelly, a three-time Grammy winner, said he also looked forward to learning the business of professional sports and becoming active in the Charlotte community.

Hip-Hop from front page

36 percent of eligible voters ages 18 to 24 cast ballots, the lowest percentage of any age group, according to the Census Bureau.

McDowell, a computer science and math major at Wayne State University, said he doesn't know much about politics, but has recently made an effort to become more informed ahead of the election. He said he believes he is the only one of his friends who will vote.

McDowell said his opinion has been influenced by things he has heard recently about the war in Iraq - particularly from the movie "Fahrenheit 9-11" - and that he has decided to vote for Kerry. Bush's opposition to affirmative action also makes him worry about future access to education for minorities, he said.

"To be honest, they're both just a bunch of naysayers. My vote counts, but at the same time, I wish I had more choices than Bush and Kerry," McDowell said.

McDowell, who sports two beaded braids dangling from his temples, says he considers himself a member of the hip-hop generation. But exactly what that means is open to debate.

Bakari Kitwana, author of "Hip-Hop Generation" and one of the organizers of the National Hip-Hop

Political Convention, which took place in June in Newark, N.J., defines it as blacks born between 1965 and 1984. As the first generation to come of age after the civil rights movement, they have a dramatically different perspective from their parents, he writes in his book.

However, both the Hip-Hop Political Convention and the Simmons' Hip-Hop Summit Action Network say they are addressing young people of all races, citing rap music's universal appeal.

The idea, said Kitwana, is to "leverage the influence of hip-hop as a cultural movement and of young people in the arena of politics." Right now, neither the Republicans or Democrats are addressing the issues that matter to young people, he said.

Among those issues are education and jobs that pay a living wage, Kitwana said. Benjamin Chavis, president of the Hip-Hop Summit, concurred and added health care to the list.

Of the two candidates, only Kerry has attended summit events, Chavis said. Still, Kerry shouldn't take the hip-hop vote for granted, he said.

"I can't say that we have a hip-hop candidate for president," said Benjamin Chavis, president of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network. "There's an independent spirit in hip-

hop. I think most hip-hopers are going to hold their vote until they determine which candidate speaks to the quality-of-life issues that impact the hip-hop community."

The Urban League's Morial said an "obsession with 'swing voters'" has drawn attention away from potential new voters and their issues.

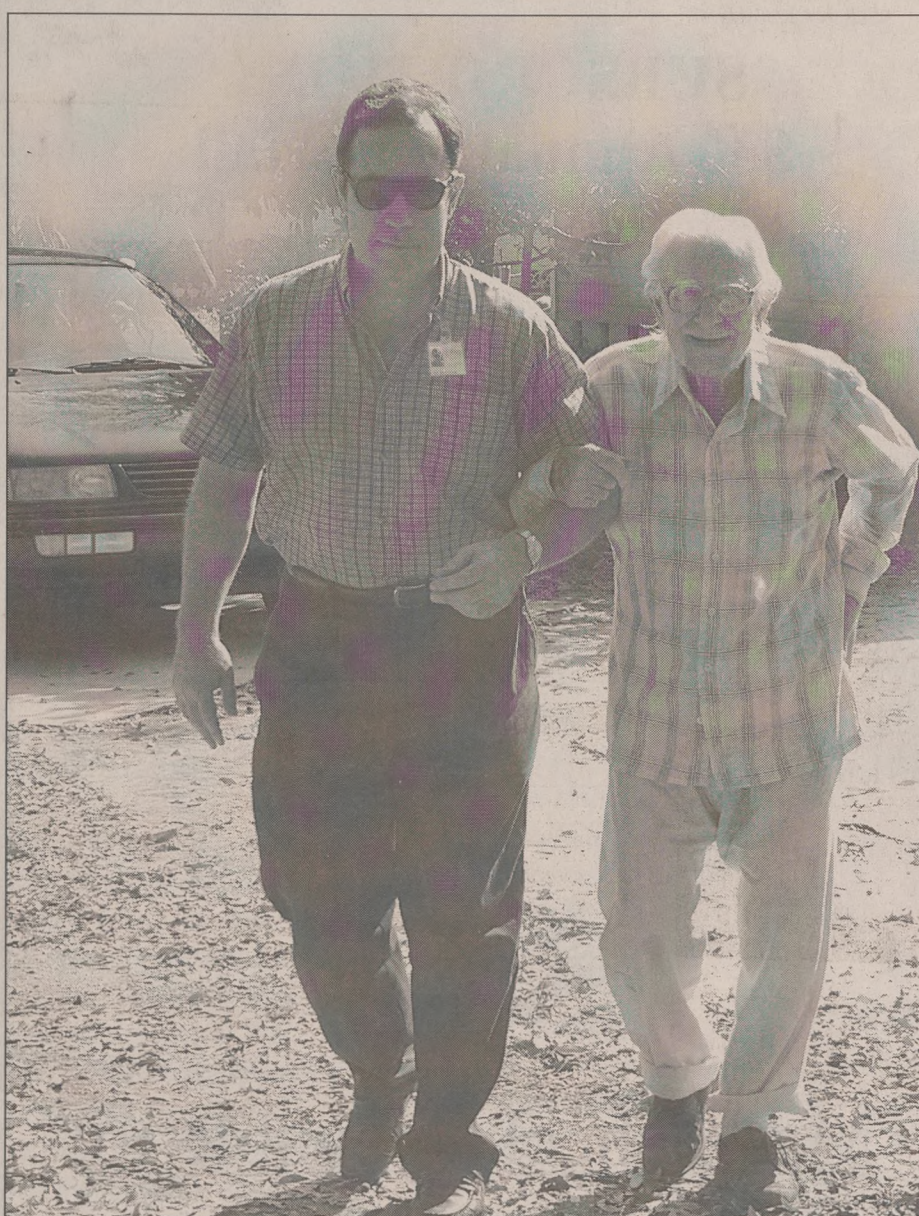
At 34, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick has been called the "hip-hop mayor," a label he says he is not entirely comfortable with. However, he has lent support to the Hip-Hop Summit on its two swings through Detroit. At the gatherings, hip-hop celebrities, including native son Eminem, took part in the discussions about political empowerment.

A Kerry supporter, Kilpatrick said the senator is not doing enough to reach out to younger voters.

"In the 60s, young people were energized when they saw people that looked like them taking positions of leadership on policy and political issues. That is the only way you're going to get it. You're not going to have somebody from my dad's generation get people motivated in the hip-hop generation to vote," he said.

"People are ready to vote, people are ready to move. They just have to be talked to."

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- Emily Green Balch
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